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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR AIRWORTHINESS AGREEMENT

FOR SECRETARY SIMON

 $1. \ \ HAVE \ REVIEWED \ US \ POSITION \ ON \ AIRWORTHINESS \ AGREE-CONFIDENTIAL$

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MENT QUESTION. FOLLOWING IS BACKGROUND:

A. SOVIETS DESIRE BILATERAL AIRWORTHINESS AGREEMENT

IN ORDER FACILITATE SALE SOVIET AIRCRAFT (YAK-40 AND POSSIBLY OTHERS) IN US MARKET. WITHOUT SUCH AN AGREEMENT, FAA COULD NOT CERTIFY AIRCRAFT AS AIRWORTHY FOR US USERS. US MANUFACTURERS (BOEING, LOCKHEED, MCDONNELL DOUGLAS) ARE ATTEMPTING TO SELL WIDE-BODIED CIVIL AIRCRAFT TO THE SOVIETS. SOVIETS PROBABLY ALSO WANT TO OBTAIN US SEAL OF APPROVAL TO HELP OVERCOME TECHNICAL UNCERTAINTIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND THUS HELP WORLDWIDE SALES.

B. AIRWORTHINESS AGREEMENTS ESTABLISH THAT EACH SIDE HAS FOUND AIRWORTHINESS CODES, ORGANIZATION, CONTROL, AND AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURING PRACTICES OF OTHER SIDE AS ADEQUATE, BUT MOST DO NOT SPECIFY AIRCRAFT TYPES FOUND TO BE AIRWORTHY.

THIS IS BASED ON LONGSTANDING AND CLOSE COOPERATION AMONG US AND MOST FOREIGN AIRWORTHINESS AUTHORITIES, WHICH DOES NOT EXIST WITH USSR AND WHICH NEITHER WE NOR SOVIETS ARE PROBABLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT IN VIEW, AMONG OTHER THINGS, OF SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED. INTER ALIA IN ACCESS TO ALL MANUFACTURING SITES.

- C. MOREOVER, AN OPEN-ENDED AGREEMENT WITH USSR WOULD PERMIT IT TO SELL FREELY IN US MARKET TO AIRLINES, COMPANIES, AND PERHAPS EVEN PRIVATE OWNERS WITHOUT ANY US CONTROLS, WHILE SOVIETS ABLE CONTROL WHAT AND HOW MUCH US AIRCRAFT PURCHASED. THERE IS POSSIBILITY, THEREFORE, THAT AN AIRWORTHINESS AGREEMENT WILL HELP SOVIET SALES, BUT DO NOTHING FOR US SALES.
- 2. ACCORDINGLY, BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE POSITION WITH USSR THAT US PREPARED ENTER INTO TALKS LOOKING TO AIRWORTHINESS AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD INVOLVE EACH SIDE SATISFYING OTHER THAT ITS AIRWORTHINESS CODE, ORGANIZATION, AND CONTROLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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ADEQUATE FOR THOSE CERTAIN US AND USSR AIRCRAFT TYPES WHOSE AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATES WOULD BE ACCEPTED BY OTHER SIDE. SINCE SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD, IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIRED TECHNICAL FINDINGS, BE A BASIS FOR SALE OF CERTAIN SOVIET AIRCRAFT, THE US WOULD EXPECT USSR TO UNDERTAKE COMMITMENT FOR SUBSTANTIAL PURCHASES OF US WIDE-BODIED CIVIL AIRCRAFT PRIOR TO CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT.

3. FOREGOING POSITION AVOIDS ASKING FOR A SPECIFIC

SOVIET COMMITMENT AT THIS TIME TO PURCHASE US AIRCRAFT AS A CONDITION TO CONCLUSION AIRWORTHINESS AGREEMENT, WITHOUT TYING OUR HANDS LATER DURING NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT SHOULD IT DEVELOP THAT TRADE INVOLVED WOULD BE A ONE-WAY STREET. KISSINGER

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